

Yellow, m, n3

TRANSFORMATION OF HOSPITAL NO. FOUR

From 17, 1943 to December 31, 1943

The transformation of U.S.N. Mobile Hospital #6 into U.S.N. Base Hospital #4 was made with the same daily routine; for with the personnel and personnel facilities intact, the care and treatment of the patients continued in the same manner. Captain Loring and Commander Stell, the commanding officers of the newly formed U.S.N. Mobile Hospital #4, remained on the spot for several weeks completing the property transfer and arrangements for the removal to Auckland. This was a laborious task for the personnel in the closing and emptying of the war-house and the removal of the huge mass of building panels and other material, on the spot, for transport to the new site of erection. The painstaking efforts of the personnel, particularly the stacking experienced when our materials arrived, the fire, and the necessity to be repeated. Despite the over-rush of the removal of the hospital, a large surplus of stores was in existence and the material was turned over to the new hospital unit by virtue of the surplus of supplies and particularly due to the successful foraging operations in the countryside by the officers of the administrative, maintenance, and primary departments.

*{ Mobile Hospital #4
Base Hospital #4*

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Any misgivings as to the amount of work that the hospital would be required to perform were usually dispelled as the following figures indicate. A comparative study of the hospital work, which has continued until recently, suggested that our medical activities might be curtailed, but actually we were never hindered by the reduction of the original medical staff. The First Marine Division had gradually decreased from its original strength, but were replaced by the Second Division and in vastly increased numbers. The replacements and units of special troops arrived. Facilities for the care of their own sick were exceedingly limited and the hospital was able to establish three dispensaries. The bulk of the servicing of the sick troops fell to this hospital and largely in the initial and final days of their stay in this area and for the remainder of the period. When the material experience of this division was complete, the extent of the task can be better appreciated. The usual hospital work continued in hospital trains and ships brought patients to us, from the islands and from other hospitals both for further treatment and for evacuation to the mainland. The daily load was also variable, depending on the shipping schedule. In all, nearly all of which had accident or sick patients aboard, shown for whom they wished consultations. The data thus far indicates that the hospital was able to handle the patient work handled in this way, and that the hospital was able to handle the patient work handled in this way, and that the hospital was able to handle the patient work handled in this way.

From the opening of the hospital until March 17, 1943, the date of the establishment of the hospital, there were 4604 admissions. Since that date to March 17, 1943, there were 9641 admissions, totalling 14245.

By months the admissions were as follows:

No. of patients - -	March 17 - 31	671
	April	1385
	May	1455
	June	1114
	July	1081
	August	964
	September	1531
	October	27
	November	118
	December	485

The number of patients' sick days, exclusive of the staff, since our arrival at Silverton in March 1943, and including staff is 294809. The figures are given for the hospital #6 and Base Hospital #4 for comparison, because of overlapping in the month of March.

	Patient's Sick Days	Staff Sick Days
138 Sept. - 1942	5	157
Oct.	7700	294
Nov.	1345	324
Dec.	1960	313
Jan. - 1943	203	415
Feb.	2	397
	911	1900
March	12004	304
April	30487	567
May	25482	470
June	25059	503
July	23656	574
August	21914	775
Sept.	28604	646
Oct.	2141	441
Nov.	1449	358
December	14542	396
	226594	5228
	Total - -	324605

A majority of the patients admitted to the hospital had complaints of a medical nature and though the surgical department had ample work in its own field, all medical officers had to turn to the treatment of the presentin problems. Casualties were brought in from the combat zones but no in the hospital previously, and there were the usual fracture cases requiring the incidental surgery that would be expected in the hospital was serving. Contagious case did occur but with some degree of pride that there were no cases of any epidemic of any kind. It is of interest to note, with the hospital's experience, the sporadic cases of disease occurring occasionally within a

Few days of instituting treatment with sulfathiazol or sulfadiazine. Pneumonia was uncommon and usually attributed to the streptococcus although 14 cases of rheumatic fever have been observed. Of particular concern were the fatal cases of malaria and those with infective endocarditis.

The hospital's experience with malaria was quite tremendous. The greater part of the infestation was due to the period vivax but up until June 1943 the malarial infection was observed not infrequently. Since that time, it has been found that the occurrence of the clinical symptoms of malaria were very infrequent, even though as many as ten episodes of malaria were seen and one of these was questionable. For malaria control, a laboratory on the compound to serve the medical and dental divisions was organized. It was at first in charge of malaria control, but was relieved by Lieut. McKinney, who in turn was relieved by Lieut. A staff of especially trained personnel was organized for the purpose of collecting material and collecting malarial parasites for the study and treatment of malaria. Finally, the division, finally, was recently attached to

The necessity for making way for an influx of patients dictated the policy of treatment. The policy of treatment was first fourteen, but had to be limited to five, at times three, depending on the cases, later extended to twelve, at times ten. Various treatments and surveys were made within the division. The treatment analysis showed that two weeks of therapy to patients in brine was as effective as any and was the procedure used to treat patients in hospital.

There are two observations to be made. The first is the health of the staff. The average on the staff for most of the year was about 14 days per year, or frequent respiratory infections, except in two instances, both in 1943, one of which was prior to March 17, 1943, and the other to the U.S.A. with a coincident low mortality rate in 1943 compared to the rate of death in the hospital and the community.

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The division to which we were assigned was very frequently re-organized, and the parties nearly equally as large. They were trained at Jepe, station

wagons, and it was not unusual for several large ten wheel trucks ridding themselves of masses of shavings, which were with their sea bags, and dressed in the most nondescript fashion from drab greens to camouflage suite. Many of these men had in their hands their own weapons and were brought directly from field dispensaries. The rail road cars went at intervals as did various ships, both bringing in new patients and evacuating others to the United States. A small number of patients were able to cope with a larger part of the emergency by coming over at night, the admissions began to drop in the late spring only to reach their largest volume in September. This was caused by the closing of the hospital at that time in preparation for the movement of all the troops from the area.

The unsteady and varying number of admissions taxed the facilities of the hospital plant to the limit. The hospital's notice would be cleared of beds as the hospital was filled with patients, single bunks were double-decked, the patients were filled with patients, and the building erected for the American Red Cross for first aid patients as an emergency measure, and even before the hospital was ready to dry. The crew had to be moved into triple-decked bunks in the steel buildings used for recreation and laundry purposes, but were only available for convalescent ambulatory patients.

140 The highest peak for the hospital activity was 1278 patients, which truly fully illustrates the importance of the organization of the hospital. The hospital was built with greater ease in the later days of the war than it was in the earlier days of Mobile Hospital, due to the fact that the hospital was planned and executed. The new construction of the hospital was planned and executed by the gravity of the situation of the hospital of it are listed below in a chronological order starting as of March 7, 1943:

1. Red Cross Building (2,700 sq.ft.) completed on March 20, 1943.
2. Transformer (to increase power supply to hospital from 100 kilowatt to 250 kilowatt) completed on March 23, 1943.
3. 2 - 500 gallon capacity gas cylinders installed submerged in earth and connected to a main line to gas pump for vehicles, completed on March 31, 1943.
4. Boiler Room addition (2,100 sq.ft.) completed on April 9, 1943.
5. E.E. T. (420 sq.ft.) completed on April 12, 1943.
6. Storage (to handle 1000 lb stores) (300 sq.ft.) completed on April 15, 1943.
7. 100 H.P. Boiler (to increase efficiency of water efficiency of hospital) completed on April 15, 1943.
8. Electric bake oven, 1000 capacity and Corintochurch 83 amp. for bake shop, completed on May 12, 1943.